

## Message Text

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10

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/046 W

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O R 150736Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

USINFO IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 2757

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS CAIRO 2758

FROM MAESTRONE

USINFO FOR IOP/M

DAMASCUS/AMMAN FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION--SECRETARY'S MID EAST TRIP

1. IN AKHBAR EL YOM OF MARCH 15, MAHA ABDEL FATTAH WRITES THAT DISENGAGE-

MENT TALKS ARE HANDICAPPED BY DIFFERENCES OVER DEFINING MILITARY LINE TO

WHICH ISRAEL IS TO WITHDRAW AND BY ISRAELI WORRIES THAT EGYPT MAY LAUNCH FUTURE OFFENSIVE FROM BETTER STRATEGIC POSITION REGAINED AS RESULT OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. ABDEL FATTAH ADDS THAT

"FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES STILL EXIST AND MAY DISRUPT ALL EFFORTS EXERTED DURING PAST MONTHS." ISRAEL, SHE

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SAYS, "STILL DEMANDS SIGNING (OF STATEMENT) TO END STATE OF

BELLIGERENCY." BUT SHE INSISTS THAT, "EGYPT WILL NEVER END WAR WITH ISRAEL BEFORE FINAL PEACE IS SETTLED IN GENEVA WITHIN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT." SHE SPECULATES THAT IF CURRENT TALKS SUCCEED AND DISENGAGEMENT TAKES PLACE ON THREE FRONTS, "GENEVA CONFERENCE CAN BE EXPECTED TO RECONVENE EARLY IN SUMMER. PALESTINIAN DELEGATION IS ALSO EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE." ABDEL FATTAH LEARNED THAT EGYPTIAN SIDE STRESSES "IMPORTANCE IS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THREE FRONTS AND NOT JUST EGYPTIAN FRONT."

2. ALSO FROM ASWAN, AL AHRAH'S HAMDI FOUAD REPORTS CONFIRMATION BY "OFFICIAL POLITICAL SOURCES" THAT GOE INFORMED SECRETARY THAT IT UNQUESTIONABLY REJECTS ENDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCY WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE SUCH ACTION "IS LINKED ONLY TO OVERALL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ME CRISIS." ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCES, "EGYPT WILL NEVER GO BACK TO DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT IN ANY WAY." EGYPT, SOURCES EXPLAINED, "SEES THAT PLEDGES TO END STATE OF BELLIGERENCY MUST BE ON RECIPROCAL BASES WITHIN LIMITS STATED IN FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT." FOUAD FURTHER STATED GOE "FUNDAMENTAL THOUGHTS ON PROBABLE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL" ARE INCLUDED IN THESE POINTS: A. ANY NEW AGREEMENT MUST BE MILITARY ONE DEALING WITH MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS OF WITHDRAWAL, AND IS TO BE SIGNED BY MILITARY PERSONNEL WITHIN GENEVA CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK. B. SUCH AGREEMENT MUST BE LIMITED TO DISENGAGEMENT, MUST CONTAIN ELEMENTS CAPABLE OF CREATING APPROPRIATE ATMOSPHERE FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD REAL PEACE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS, AND MUST LEAD TO OTHER MEASURES CONTRIBUTING TO PEACEM C. GOE REFUSES BOTH ENDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCY AND (ISRAELI) WITHDRAWAL OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME. IT BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM OILFIELDS AND PASSES MAY TAKE LONGER TIME THAN PREVIOUS AGREEMENT (40 DAYS) BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF AIRPORTS AND EQUIPMENT. AND D. GOE REFUSES TO LINK NEW AGREEMENT WITH REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL. REOPENING CANAL IS TO BE DECISION OF GOE AND WILL BE SCHEDULED WHEN EGYPT IS SURE THAT SUFFICIENT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS MADE SO AS NOT TO THREATEN SAFETY AND SECURITY OF NAVIGATION.

3. ALL PAPERS COVER IN SEPARATE FRONTPAGE ITEM FONMIN FAHMY'S DENIAL OF EGYPT'S REPORTED ACCEPTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT BUFFER ZONE PATROLS (WITH UN AND ISRAEL) IN SINAI.  
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4. PRESS ALSO QUOTES OPTIMISTIC PREDICTIONS BY SENIOR US OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER THAT SECRETARY TO WILL RETURN TO ASWAN WITH SOMETHING NEW FROM ISRAEL TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUING, THAT IT IS TIME FOR ISRAEL TO CHANGE HER MIND ABOUT OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THAT SECRETARY IS CLOSER TO AGREEMENT. PAPERS REPORT SECRETARY'S VIEWS IN ISRAEL THAT TALKS ARE STILL SLOW AND COMPLICATED AND IT IS PREMATURE TO PREDICT SETTLEMENT.

AL GOMHOURIYA'S STORY INCLUDED LIKUD'S EXPRESSION  
OF DISSATISFACTION WITH "KISSINGER'S PRESSURES."

5. EDITORIALY, AL AHRAH REPEATS THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMACY HAS  
RESPONSIBILITY TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND CANNOT BE  
ABSOLVED OF RESPONSIBILITY IF ISRAELI OBSTINANCE REJECTS EFFORTS  
TO DEFUSE ME SITUATION.  
EILTS

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